

by the user. For example, in the selectable information displayer according to an aspect of the invention, it is also acceptable that an axis recognized by the user as what passes through an area displaying each of the selectable other items of information, which relate to the specified information via the selected relation criteria, serves as the selection axis. The same applies to the non-selection axis.

[0013] In the display information selection apparatus, the specified information is displayed in a specified position on the display, while other information relating to the specified information is displayed in another position, other than the specified position on the display. Herein, the specified information relates to the other information via one or more relation criteria, and one of the relation criteria is selected as a selected relation criterion. The other information relating to the specified information via the selected relation criterion is displayed aligned on the selection axis. Other information relating to the specified information via another relation criterion, other than the selected relation criterion is displayed aligned on the non-selection axis.

[0014] Herein, it is possible to make the other information related via the selected relation criterion to be the new specified information in accordance with an input from the first input. By carrying out an input from the first input again while the new specified information is displayed in a specified position, it is further possible to make another, different item of information related via the same relation criterion (the selected relation criterion) the latest specified information. By repeating an input from the first input in this way, it is possible to sequentially display other items of information related via the same relation criterion (the selected relation criterion) corresponding to the information previously selected as the specified information, in the specified position on the display.

[0015] Also, non-selected other items of information, relating to the specified information via another relation criterion, other than the selected relation criterion, are also displayed on the non-selection axis. In the event that a user gets interested in the non-selected other information displayed on the non-selection axis, the user may carry out an input from the second input to change a relation criterion which has not been the selected relation criterion to the selected relation criterion. By combining the input from the second input and the input from the first input, it is possible for the user to visually compare the information to reach the desired information beginning at the information selected as the specified information at a certain point.

[0016] In this way, the user, by considering the specified information, which is displayed in the specified position of display, can visually perceive the other items of information relating thereto and relation criteria associating with the other items of information. Then, by sequentially changing the specified information and the selected relation criterion by manipulating the inputs from the first and second inputs, it becomes possible to easily select the desired information, by a visual perception method, even from among a plurality of items of information intricately relating to one another.

[0017] In the display information selection apparatus, the specified information displayer may display the specified information larger than the other items of information that are displayed.

[0018] In this case, the information selected as the specified information at any time is easier for the user to visually perceive and understand than the other information.

[0019] In the display information selection apparatus, the selectable information displayer may display the selectable other items of information, other than the specified information relating to the specified information via the selected relation criterion, larger than the non-selected other items of information relating to the specified information via the other relation criterion other than the selected relation criterion.

[0020] In this case, it becomes easier for the user to visually perceive whether another item of information, other than the specified information, is related to the present specified information via the selected relation criterion so that it can be made the new specified information in response to an input from the first input; or, whether it is related to the present specified information via another relation criterion, other than the selected relation criterion, so that it cannot be made the new specified information in response to an input from the first input.

[0021] In the display information selection apparatus, the selectable information displayer may display the selectable other items of information, other than the specified information, relating to the specified information via the selected relation criterion, adjacent to the specified information and larger in scale than the non-selected other items of information not displayed adjacent to the specified information.

[0022] The non-selectable information displayer may display the non-selected other items of information, other than the specified information and relating to the specified information via the other relation criterion, which are other than the selected relation criterion and displayed adjacent to the specified information larger than the other items of information, as not displayed adjacent to the specified information.

[0023] The selectable information displayer may display selectable other items of information relating to the specified information via the selected relation criterion so that the closer the items are displayed to the specified information, the larger they are displayed. The non-selectable information displayer may also display non-selected other items of information relating to the specified information via the other relation criterion, other than the selected relation criterion, so that the closer the items are displayed to the specified information, the larger they are displayed.

[0024] By displaying the information displayed adjacent to the specified information larger than the information not displayed adjacent to the specified information, or by displaying information larger the closer it is displayed to the specified information, it becomes easier for the user to visually perceive other information which can be made or selected to be the specified information after the present specified information, making it even easier to carry out a selection of information.

[0025] In the display information selection apparatus, the selectable information displayer may display an item of information having a closest similarity to the specified information adjacent to the specified information from among the other items of information relating to the specified information via the selected relation criterion.